

HAMATEUR CHATTER

One of the World's Oldest Continuously Active Radio Amateur Clubs - since 1917

Vol. 14 No. 8 - August, 2006

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

by Howard, AB9FH



Greetings, again!

August is upon us; most of the year is behind us now. Fall approaches. The ads for special football packages on cable and satellite TV are approaching fever pitch. I find them more annoying than political ads; perhaps that is because politics stands a chance of actually affecting my life in some way, whereas TV, well we get closer to just unplugging the idiot box for good every year.

Thanks to all who participated in our roundtable discussion at July's meeting. I heard about some impressive projects after the meeting. Next time, let's hear about them during as well! I find that these roundtables can be very self-sustaining. One story reminds someone about another and so on.

I did have the secondary motive of trying to identify who might have some stuff to show at our promotional events. It was great to hear that our homebrewing projects extended from 1950s radios and amps all the way past 2000 to computer interfaces. These projects are a justifiable source of pride for the builders. I am making my own foray into kit building with the CW keyer kit I got at the last meeting.

On a subject I mentioned in an earlier letter, I want to get an Extra licensing class going this fall. Look for an announcement about this on the website by the next club meeting. Anyone interested in upgrading? Anyone interested in helping to teach? This will need to be a 10 - week class in order to cover all the material, so if you can help in even a few of the classes, it would be appreciated.

73!



MRAC Officers

President	
Howard Parks	AB9FH
Vice President	
Joe Schwarz	N9UX
Secretary	
Charles Grady	KC9IIV
Treasurer	
Sarah Parks	KB9ZNC

Board of Directors

Pancho Doneis	KA9OFA
('05-'07)	
Tom Liebe	WI9TOM
('06-'08)	
Ted Stiller	WA9RDI
('06-'08)	
Jerry Wahlen	WA9CGE
('05-'07)	
Dick Wood	W9JBE
('05-'07)	

HamateurChatter Editor

Pancho Doneis KA9OFA
New: adoneis@wi.rr.com
(414) 344-4694

HamateurChatter Emailings

Joe Schwarz N9UX

Regular Mailings

Dick Wood W9JBE

Club/VEC Phone no. is

(414) 332-MRAC or
(414) 332-6 7 2 2

Visit our website at:

www.w9rh.org

Address correspondence to:

M. R. A. C.

P.O. Box 070695

Milwaukee, WI 53207-0695
or w9rh@arrl.net

NETS HEARD IN THE MILWAUKEE AREA

DAY	TIME	MHz	ACTIVITY			
Daily	6:00-8:00 AM	14.2900	Milwaukee / Florida (SSB)	Wed.	8:00 PM	145.130 ARRL voice news
Daily	5:15-6:00 AM	3.9850	Wisconsin SSB net	Wed.	9:00 PM	145.130 MAARS Swapnet
Daily	7:30 AM	144.1550	Breakfast RoundTable (SSB)	Wed.	8:00 PM	147.270 Weather & Swap Net
Daily	9:30 PM	3.9725	Country Cousins Net	Thu.	9:00 PM	50.160 6 m. SSB Net
Mon.	8:00 PM	146.8650-	ARES Net (Walworth and ARRL news)	Thu.	9:00 PM	146.910- Computer Net
Mon.	8:00 PM	146.4450	Emergency Net	Fri. 8:00 PM 28.490	MRAC W9RH 10 m. Net (SSB)	
Mon.	8:45 PM	147.1650	ARRL voice news (ARES)	Fri. 9:00 PM 145.390-	W9RH 2 m. FM Net after 10 mtr. net	
Mon.	9:00 PM	50.1600	6 m. SSB Net	Sat	9:00 PM	146.910- Saturday Night Fun Net
Mon.	9:00 PM	147.1650	ARES Net (Milwaukee-Waukesha)	Sun.	8:30 AM	3.985 QCWA (Chptr 55) (SSB)
Tue.	9:00 AM	50.1600	6 m. 2nd Shifters' SSB Net	Sun.	9:00 AM	145.565 X-Country Simplex Group (FM)
Tue.	8:00 PM	144.2500	Badger Contesters (SSB)	Sun.	10:00 AM	443.800 FM-38 link to 146.88 Baraboo Swapnet
Tue.	9:00 PM	50.1600	6 m. SSB Net	Sun.	8:00 PM	28.365 MKE Guardian chptr 10-10 net
Wed.	8:00 PM	28.365	MKE Guardian chptr 10-10 net	Sun.	8:00 PM	146.910- Information Net
				Sun.	9:00 PM	146.910- Swap Net

2 meter repeaters are offset by 600 KHz -- 70 centimeter repeaters are offset by 5 MHz
SSB frequencies below 20 meters are LSB and for 20 mtrs and above are USB

HAMATEURCHATTER

HamateurChatter is the newsletter of MRAC (Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club), a not for profit organization for the advancement of amateur radio and the maintenance of fraternalism and a high standard of conduct.

MRAC Membership dues are \$17.⁰⁰ per year and run on a calendar year starting January 1.

MRAC general membership meetings are normally held at 7:00 p.m. the last Thursday of the month except for November (3rd Thursday due to Thanksgiving) and December, when Christmas dinner takes the place of a regular meeting.

Meetings are held at:

Redemption Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall
4057 N. Mayfair Rd.
Milwaukee, WI

THINK HAM RADIO?

I would like to extend my gratitude to all those operators who visited and viewed my blog. I received an A for the project, which would not have been possible without all of your input. And I would like to give a special thanks to my dad, (Pancho, KA9OFA) for getting the call out and to all those who posted their insightful and relevant comments including William Fullhart, W9WCF; Carlos Barron, KG9FC; Jerry Thompson, W9SFH; John Kraak, KF9XL; and long time family friend Gerald Atherton, WA9CXN.

Thanks, again! As a community, you guys rock!

Armor3 (Armin F. Doneis III)

CREDITS

Our thanks to our news contributors this month:

WB9GYT N9LGE WA9RDI
WB9BWP KF9PU K9RYW
AB9FH KB9ZNC

Our thanks also goes to:

Rita Doneis, Hal Newton, Howard Parks, and Tom Fuszard, for proofreading the 'Chatter this month.

Thanks also to Dick Wood, for mailing the hard copy of the

'Chatter and to Joe Schwarz, who Emails the 'Chatter.

Howard Parks, who administers our Web Site.

Mark Tellier, Tom Czaja, and Tom Fuszard who manage our VEC.



Thank YOU!

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING 7/27/06

By SARAH PARKS, KB9ZNC

Our president Howard, AB9FH, called the meeting to order at 8:15 pm.

Again our mic could not be used, due to the use of the church's system upstairs, so all identified loud and clear.

Following Buzz Talk, Howard AB9FH, read the minutes of the previous meeting, as secretary Charles, KC9IIV, was absent. There were no corrections and Dick, W9JBE, moved to accept them as read with Buck, K9RYW, seconding; it passed on a voice vote.

There was no treasurer's report because the Treasurer was out of the country for two weeks.

There was no Old Business to discuss.

Howard, AB9FH, reported that at the last Board meeting, they had started a schedule for upcoming

programs for meetings. He encouraged the membership to contribute ideas.

Buck, K9RYW, plans on keeping up the CW practice on the repeater; which days and times are still TBD. Howard, AB9FH, asked that he be notified so that the club website and newsletter could advertise this.

Howard reminded the membership that the club would be celebrating its 90th birthday in January 2007. He solicited ideas for ways to celebrate this, stating that a special event station was the minimum. Suggestions included a balloon-lofted transmitter, and a birthday party with demonstrations of old equipment from members, especially homebrew. Hans, AE9G, suggested including modern equipment alongside our antiques. Howard agreed that as many modes as possible be demonstrated. Jack, W9ULA, suggested honoring older members. Pancho, WA9OFA, suggested that the event could be held in warmer weather rather

than to be held to the actual January date. Jack also suggested setting up an event at the new Discovery World (downtown, Milwaukee). Dave, WB9BWP, said he might have a contact there.

Pancho conducted an informal poll of how many members relied on dial-up for their Internet access. (Roughly half had dial up).

And finally, Dave, WB9BWP, auctioned off a CW Keyer kit donated by Del, KA9ZMK.

Pancho, KA9OFA, then made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Jerry, KA9AJF. The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Sarah, KB9ZNC (filling in for Charles, KC9IIV).

REPEATER STUFF MORE REPEATER STUFF

By DAVE DEFEO, WB9BWP

Last time I discussed some of the voices the repeater uses to communicate. Before I get to the promised topic for this time, automatic functions, I want to thank the people who agreed to record some IDs for the repeater while at Field Day. In the coming weeks there will be some new voices (from club members) speaking for the repeater. I won't yet disclose who they are; let's see if you can guess.

On to automatic functions. The new controller allows for a number of automatically scheduled functions to be programmed. The most obvious are for the Friday night net and for on air code instruction. For the Friday night net, things begin Thursday at 7:05 p.m. when a "tail message" is added announcing the net on Fridays at 9 p.m. That message is turned off at 8:50 p.m. Friday. At 9 p.m. the repeater is placed into "normal net" mode. That

means a courtesy beep of a Morse code "N", shorter voice IDs, and a five-minute time out timer. FCC rules require a three-minute timer during automatic control but during net times there is most often a control operator available so we stretch the timer to minimize time-outs during a net. (The timer is NOT changed for special nets like public service events or emergency operations). At 10 p.m. Fridays net functions are turned off and the repeater is returned to "normal" communications operation; a 3 minute timer, the "normal" beep and "normal" voice IDs and announcements. If the net ends before 10:00, things may be manually reset, but we will usually just let the automatic functions take care of things (unless the net is especially short). Speaking of nets, there is a voice announcement at 8:05 p.m. on Fridays regarding the 10 M net going on at that time.

When code instruction is in operation there is a similar scheduled control change. For instance, this past spring when code instruction ran on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 6:00-7:00 p.m., the repeater would change

Repeater cont. on pg.4

SOME ENTRIES IN, RICK KISSÉLL, WB9GYT's LOG

All at 100 watts

Date	Freq. MHz	Mode	Time UTC	Station Worked	Report Sent Rec'd	Time Off	QTH	Name	Other
	18075	CW	2339	DT8 A	439 5NN	2341	King Sejong Sta., St. George Island		
03/12	18075	"	1656	GP05TH	599 5NN	1656	Guernsey, Island (off the French coast) G4DIY		
03/14	18.077	"	1453	MJ/K3PLV	599 5NN	1454	Jersey Island (off French coast)		
03/21	18.072	"	1840	TY5MR	339 5NN	1840	Menin, W. Africa		
03/24	18.070	"	1639	HH4/K4QD	599 5NN	1639	Haiti		
03/28	14.025	"	1840	HH4/K4QD	569 5NN	1840	Haiti		
04/21	18.072	"	0236	YX0A	599 5NN	0236	Aves Island Dxpediton Venezuelan Island		
04/22	18.072	"	1518	YX0LIX	599 5NN	1518			
04/24	21.023	"	1532	YX0LIX	569 5NN	1533			
04/25	14.023	"	0103	YX0LIX	449 5NN	0103			
04/26	10.103	"	0322	YX0LIX	569 5NN	0322			
04/27	28.020	"	2321	YX0LIX	599 5NN	2321			
04/28	18.073	"	1814	EA9EU	599 5NN	1814	Centra, Spanish - in northern Affrica (Morocco)		
	21.025	"	2227	S9SS	599 5NN	2227	Sao Tome & Principe Islands (equatorial Africa)		
	10.105	CW	2252	TB0DX	339 5NN	2252	Czech Dxpediton to Turkey's islands		
04/30	18.069	"	1552	S58AL	599 5NN	1553	Slovenia, S.E. Europe		
05/12	18.072	"	1552	6W/HA7TM	349 5NN	1553	Senegal W. Africa		
05/17	18.074	"	1638	FP/DJ2VO	569 5NN	1638	St.Pierre & Miguelon (isles near Newfoundland)		
05/20	50.125	USB	0132	K1DAM	56 55	0134	RI - FN41	Dave	
	05.125	"	0134	VA3WLD	58 59	0137	Toronto - FN03		John
	50.125	"	0136	VE3CRU	58 59	0140	Toronto - EN03	Bill	
	50.096	CW	0141	K3KYR	599 599	0148	Bombay, N.Y. - FN24	Jeff	
	50.093	"	0149	WW2P	589 599	0153	Buffalo, N.Y.		
	50.200	USB	0158	KC2LEE	57 59	0204	Frankville, N.Y - FN02		Roy
	50.200	"	0204	N1GJI	59 -	0211	NY - FN42	Jay	
	50.200	"	0211	W1TR	58 59	0223	CT - FN31	Terry	
	50.200	"	0218	K1BXC	59 -	0220	CT - FN31	Dan	
	50.195	"	0226	K1SIX	59 59	0229	Concord NH - FN43	Bob	
	50.125	"	0246	N1TQP	53 53	0250	FN32		

Repeater cont. from pg. 3

to code instruction mode at 6 p.m. and change back to normal mode at 7 p.m. For code instruction the beep changes to a Morse code "K", the timer is set to 10 minutes.

Finally, there are club info announcements, which occur at 5 minutes before the hour (most hours) between 6:55 a.m. and midnight.

For some scheduled functions, a short CW message is sent indicating the function taking place, like "net" "no ann" "code" etc. That is to indicate some automatic function was

executed and not having to wait for some time to really tell if something happened. Trust me, there are control operators listening much of the time. The automatic functions are so no one has to run to a telephone at an exact minute and execute any number of controller commands. By the way, at this time the repeater clock is about 8 seconds slow. That is not because it lost time. It is because of how we set the time. It keeps good time, so it is safe to trust the repeater clock and scheduler.

PROGRAM

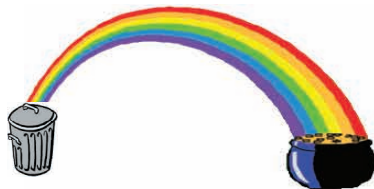
Ted Stiller's program

Ted Stiller, WA9RDI, will do an ongoing program for the August meeting on home-built equipment: CHAPTER TWO.

The object will be to get members working with the tools.

Lots of info - Quick - Light.

EVENTS



Radio EXPO *
Sat. & Sun., Aug. 26 & 27, 1006
Lake County Fairgrounds
Grayslake, IL
146.16/76 MHz (107.2 Hz PL)

MRAC Membership Meeting
Thu., Aug. 31, 2006
7:00 p.m.

Redemption Lutheran Church
4057 N. Mayfair Rd.
Milwaukee, WI

Ozaukee

Outdoor
HAM & Hobby Swapfest
Sat. - Sep. 9, 2006
Circle B Recreation Center
Cedarburg, WI

SEWFARS SwapFes

Sun. - Sep. 10, 2006

Richton Park, IL

Peoria, WI

T/I on 146.82 (PL 127.3)

Peoria SuperFest 2006 *

Sat. & Sun. - Sep. 16 & 17, 2006

Exposition Gardens

Peoria, IL

T/I on 147.075 + MHz.

MRAC Membership Meeting

Thu., Sep. 28, 2006

7:00 p.m.

Redemption Lutheran Church

4057 N. Mayfair Rd.

Milwaukee, WI

MRAC Membership Meeting

Thu., Oct. 26 2006

7:00 p.m.

Redemption Lutheran Church

4057 N. Mayfair Rd.

Milwaukee, WI

Fox Cities

Amateur Radio Club SwapFest *

Sun. - Nov. 5, 2006

Waverly Beach

Menasha, WI

T/I on 146.76 MHz rpt.

Thanksgiving!!!

Thu., Nov. 23, 2006

* indicates VE testing
is available.

VE NEWS

BY TOM FUSZARD, KF9PU

Nine candidates joined us during our test session on July 29. Of those, eight were successful in either earning a license or upgrading their current one. One candidate, who happens to be blind, successfully passed the Technician Class exam. Co-manager Mark Tellier, AB9CD, presented her exam orally.

VEs who assisted with this session included:

Sherm Swanson.....KB9Q
Hal Newton.....KB9OZN
Nels Harvey.....WA9JOB
Tom Liebe.....WI9TOM
Ken Lyman.....AA7KL
Les Hundt.....AB9EY
Naomi Potash.....KC9GSS

Our next session will be held on Sept. 30 at AES. We will begin at 9:30 and administer the final exam no later than 11:15.

OTA CW CLASSES

We will again be conducting OTA (Over The Air) CW classes and practice.

Stay tuned for word on these CW classes on our repeater. Buck informs me that they (Buck, K9RYW, and Bob, W9CYI, and sometimes even Dick, WB9PTC) will be doing it again soon, probably after Labor Day.

They are thinking of doing two half hour sessions a week for beginners and two half hour sessions for more advanced practice, etc. These sessions could be on the same night or on different nights.

Please let them know if this is a good idea or if some other arrangement would be better.

EXAM SCHEDULE

BY TOM FUSZARD, KF9PU

MRAC VEC

Exam Schedule

Summer & Fall 2006

Sat., Sept. 30, 2006 - 9:30 @ AES

Sat., Oct. 28, 2006 - 9:30 @ AES
Sat., Nov. 25, 2006 - 9:30 @ AES
Sat., Jan. 6, 2007 - 9:00 AMF lanes,
Waukesha: WARAC swapfest;
Sat., Jan. 27 AES 9:30
Sat., Feb. 24 AES 9:30

**AES = Amateur Electronic
Supply**

5710 W. Good Hope Rd.
Milwaukee, WI



The next meeting of MRAC
will be **Thursday, August 31, 2006**
at **7:00 p.m.**

Redemption Lutheran Church

Fellowship Hall

4057 N. Mayfair Rd.

(Use the south entrance)

HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

Please, DON'T call the church.

**Our Repeater,
Talk it up.
145.390- MHz
(127.3 Hz PL)**

**Our program for the
August 31st general
meeting will be
"Chapter Two of
Homebrewing"
with Ted Stiller,
WA9RDI,
as moderator.**

Visit our new website at: **www.w9rh.org**

Our phone **(414) 332-MRAC**
332-6 7 2 2



M.R.A.C.
Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club
P.O. Box 070695
Milwaukee, WI 53207-0695

First Class